

May 29, 2003

PRESS RELEASE

Contact: Jacky Takakura, Information Specialist
270-8046
jacky.takakura@co.maui.hi.us

Upcountry residents asked to conserve water

Due to continued dry weather conditions and low flows into the water reservoirs, **Upcountry residents are asked to voluntarily conserve water.** The affected areas include Haiku, Makawao, Olinda, Haliimaile, Pukalani, Omaopio/Pulehu, Kula, Keokea/Waiohuli, Ulupalakua, and Kanaio. A drought emergency was declared for Upcountry on December 4, 2002 with voluntary restrictions for customers. If we cannot maintain reservoir levels, we will need to require a 10% mandatory cutback in water usage.

The following conditions existed as of Thursday morning, May 29, 2003:

1. Wailoa Ditch
Flows at the ditch this morning were at 33.4 million gallons per day (MGD) or 16.7 % of capacity.
2. Kamole Water Treatment Facility
Facility production was 6.2 million gallons (MG) for the previous 24-hour period.
3. Piiholo Water Treatment Facility
The reservoir contained 15.8 MG or 31.6% of capacity. Piiholo facility production was 2.2 MG.
4. Waikamoi and Kahakapao Reservoirs
The 30 MG Waikamoi Reservoirs are empty; the 100 MG Kahakapao reservoirs still held 80.8 MG (80.8%) of untreated water.
5. Olinda Water Treatment Facility
Facility production was 1.2 MG.
6. Groundwater
The draw from the Kaupakalua Well was 0.7 MG, and the draw from the Haiku Well was 0.4 MG.
7. Total Demand
The total average demand for the Upcountry water system for the past week was 9.8 MGD. Earlier this month, the total average daily demand for the week of May 4-10, 2003, was 8.5 MGD. At the current high rate of production, consumption is so high that water levels in the storage tanks are falling.

8. Rainfall Forecast

According to NOAA, the seasonal forecast for Maui calls for a dry spring season (March-May) and near-normal (dry) conditions for the coming summer (June-August).

The Department of Water Supply will do all it can to access other sources of water, including groundwater. The Department of Water Supply will also continue to monitor the weather forecast and source water flows. Customers can assist by using less water and may check the Upcountry water supply report at www.mauiwater.org/drought.html for daily updates on supply and demand.

To help conserve water, consumers should check in and around homes for leaks, use water conservatively, and install water saving devices where possible. Suggested conservation methods include not washing cars, irrigating lawns or filling storage tanks or reservoirs. Decreasing outdoor water use is a simple yet significant way to reduce water consumption.

Free low-flow showerheads and leak detection dye tablets for toilets are available on the 5th floor of the Kalana O Maui building in Wailuku. For more information on how to save water, contact the Department of Water Supply at 270-7199. To report leaks in the water system, please call 270-7633.

The Department of Water Supply would like to thank the Upcountry Maui community for their cooperation during this difficult time.